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THESIS
DE PHRENITIDE,

QUAM in Auguſtiſſimo Monſpelienſi Apollinis Fano, propugnabit CAROLUS MACCARTHY, Hybernus, Corcagienſis, Liberalium Artium Magiſter, & jamdudùm Medicinæ Alumnus, die 8 Februarii, anni 1759.

Pro primâ Apollinari Laureâ conſequendâ.

I.

PHRENITIS eſt delirium univerſale cum febre acutâ continuâ à nimiâ fibrarum emporii tenſione & rigiditate oriundum.

II.

Nonnulli cum antiquis Phrenitidem à ſolâ cerebri, vel meningum inflammatione produci exiſtimant : At ejuſmodi Sententia nec rationi nec obſervationibus conſona videtur. Fieri quidem poteſt quòd inflammatio incipiens Phrenitidem exaſperet, ſed ſi confirmata fuerit inflammatio, & in altum elata tumorem, non ſolùm non aderit Phrenitis, verùm etiam affectus ſoporoſi ſupervenient. Deindè anatomica obſervatio in cadaverum ſectione docet meninges ſæpe fuiſſe inflammatas imò gangrænatas, nullâ per totum morbi ſtadium prægreſsâ Phrenitide. Noſtram ſententiam non parùm confirmat Phreniticum illud delirium quod in vigore acceſſionum febrium intermittentium quandoquè invadit ægros & in intermiſſione immunes relinquit; concipi enim non poteſt inflammationem meningum cerebri per intervalla adeò brevia recurrere, ac ſubitò ægros deſerere penitùs. Adde non ſemel fuiſſe obſervatum ægros delirantes ipſoſque Phreniticos muſicæ auxilio non mitigatos ſolùm, verùm etiam penitùs fuiſſe ſanatos : At quis unquàm crediderit, quantacumque fuerit vis muſices in corpus humanum, inflammationem cerebri vel meningum ope inſtrumenti cujuſcumque muſici poſſe ſanari ?

III.

Alia itaquè veriſimilior ſtatuenda eſt Phrenitidis cauſâ, quam in nimiâ fibrarum cerebri tenſione ac rigiditate ab æſtu & fervore ſanguinis difficilè per cerebrum circulantis productâ ſupponimus. Fervens

enim ac æſtuante ſanguine per cerebri vaſa non admodum liberè provoluto, ea vaſa turgere oportet; ergò ductus ſecretorii ſpirituoſum liquidum è ſanguiferis haurientes patebunt magis quàm anteà; ergò liquidum hoc majori quantitate & maximo impetu in canaliculos ſecretorios derivatur, ac deindè eâdem quantitate eodemque impetu in fibras cerebri medullares abripitur: hæ autem fibræ eo liquido repletæ compreſſioni vaſorum ſanguiferorum reſiſtunt, eâque reſiſtentiâ fibræ cerebri neceſſariò tenduntur. Rursùs quoniam æſtus ſine calore fieri non poteſt, fibras cerebri excitari neceſſum eſt, undè humiditatis defectu areſcentes, ferè rigeſcunt.

IV.

Ab antiquis dividebatur Phrenitis in veram & ſpuriam: Vera, inquiunt, ab inflammatione meningum oritur; ſpuria verò alteri morbo ſuccedit: dùm verò ab inflammatione diaphragmatis ortum habebat paraphrenitis dicebatur. Hæc antiquorum diviſio nullius eſt momenti: melius juxtà nos dividitur Phrenitis in primariam & ſymptomaticam: Primaria ea eſt quæ ægrum invadit nullo pregreſſo alio morbo, & continuò ad finem inſtat; ſymptomatica verò ea eſt quæ alium ſequitur morbum ità ut ſit illius morbi ſymptoma; nonnunquàm per periodos recurrit, ut fit in vigore acceſſionis febrium intermittentium vel exacerbatione continuarum.

V.

Ea omnia quæ ſanguinis æſtum fervoremque inducunt Phrenitidis cauſæ remotæ habentur: has inter enumerari poſſunt cruditates primarum viarum bilioſæ & nidoroſæ, evacuationes conſuetæ ſuppreſſæ; ſic ſuppreſſis lochiis vel catameniis, fluxu hæmorroïdali intempeſtivè cohibito, retentis urinâ, ſudore, tranſpiratione inſenſili, non ſolùm augetur humorum moles, ſed etiam partes ſanguinis heterogeneæ his evacuationibus eliminandæ in maſſâ ſanguineâ retinentur: Hæ autem partes ſanguini conciliant inſolitum & præternaturalem fervorem & æſtum, undè febris; nimiâ fibrarum emporii tenſio, Phrenitis.

VI.

Inflammatio partium externarum Phrenitidem ſymptomaticam ſæpè parit: 1o. Ratione doloris nervos ac deindè fibras emporii validè ſuccutientis: ille dolor inflammationis comes ſic nervos ſuccutiendo humores ad motûs inſolitos concitat, undè nimia fibrarum emporii tenſio æſtuſque ſanguinis inducuntur. 2o. Ratione cauſæ inflammationem producentis; hæc enim fluxilitatem ſanguinis imminuit, æſtumque adauget; undè magis æſtuante ſanguine, & difficiliùs intrà cerebrum circulante, fibræ emporii & magis tenſæ & rigidiores evadunt.

VII.

Delirio univerſali laborant Phrenitici: hoc fit ut ex jam dictis patet propter nimiam fibrarum cerebri tenſionem. Cùm enim à diverſis harumce fibrarum motionibus diverſæ pendeant animæ modificationes, neceſſum eſt fibras plus æquo tenſas vividiùs ac fortiùs vibrari quàm in ſtatu naturali, undè fortiores ideæ & vividiores rerum imagines

animæ objiciuntur. Deindè cum arteriæ cerebri tunc violentiùs oscillent, spirituosum liquidum earum oscillationibus vividè propulsum huc & illuc sine ordine in toto cerebro vagatur; undè plures inordiati fibrarum variè tensarum motus : At quoniam ad perfectam idearum claritatem, perfectus in fibrarum emporii motibus ordo requiritur, hoc deficiente ratiocinium deficere necessum est.

VIII.

Phrenitidem primariam precedere solent vigiliæ, somnia turbulenta, desipientia levis, subitanea oblivio; sentitur dolor capitis ingens, siccitas totius corporis. Hæc omnia denotant delirium imminens. Ex sicco corporis habitu colligi potest limphæ tenuissimæ certà imminutio; sanguinis æstu ac fervore dissipatur brevi pars ipsius subtilior, undè massa sanguinea crassior evadit; vasa itaquè minima sanguifera liberè permeare non potest, ergò majora distendit; hoc autem fieri nequit quin comprimantur vicina minora, adeoquè quin exsiccentur. Cerebri autem siccitas, adeoquè humorum immeabilitas in cerebri vasis cognoscitur ex siccitate partium vicinarum quæ ab iisdem arteriis ac encephalon humores suos accipiunt.

IX.

Nulla datur Phrenitis sine febre; sanguinis enim æstus quo emporii fibræ præter consuetum naturæ ordinem tenduntur, à motu febrili producitur; adeoquè quæcumque causa hunc sanguinis æstum producere potest, febrim quoque accendit. Phrenitici modò tristes, modò hilares, modò feroces evadunt, idque pro diverso delirii objecto, prout nempè objectum illud magis minusvè placet aut displicet. Hinc explicari potest quomodò Phreniticus, si somno per breve tempus corripiatur, mentis compos quandoquè per aliquod intervallum efficitur.

X.

Phrenitidis seu primariæ seu symptomaticæ præsentia sequentibus signis cognoscitur. 1o. Læsa ratiocinandi facultate. 2o. Somniis turbulentis. 3o. Ferociâ auctâ. 4o. Pulsu durò. 5o. Magnâ & rarâ respiratione, facie rubrâ adspectu horridâ, oculis ardentibus, protuberantibus, narium stillicidio. Adverte tamen quod licèt ferocia sit sæpè Phrenitidis præsentis indicium, delirium tamen Phreniticum non est semper ferox; ex jam dictis patet plures Phreniticos non solùm non esse feroces, sed etiàm sæpè hilares fieri. Vera & legitima Phrenitis à symptomaticâ ex suprà dictis facile distinguitur. Tandem Phrenitis per delirium universale, febrimque acutam & continuam ab omni aliâ dementiæ specie distingui potest: in lethargo est sopor, in maniâ nullâ est febris, in somnum frustrà propendent comatosi vigiles, fatuos deniquè non febricitare quotidiana docet experientia.

XI.

Phrenitis primaria tertiâ quartâ aut septimâ die terminatur; rarò hunc terminum excedit. Morbus hic summè periculosus dubii admodum & incerti eventus est; desinere potest in lethergum, coma, vel carum; etenim si nimiam fibrarum emporii tensionem, quæ ut dictum

eſt Phrenitidem parit, ſequatur confirmata cerebri vel meningum inflammatio, facile intelligitur mox ſecuturos eſſe affectus ſoporoſos propter difficultatem fluxus liquidi ſpirituoſi per nerveas cerebri fibrillas. Motus convulſivos, floccorum volitantium venatum, ſanguinem è naribus guttatim & parcè fluentem in Phrenitide mortis proximæ & imminentis tot eſſe præſagia obſervatum eſt.

XII.

Ut ritè intelligatur quo pacto curanda ſit phrenitis, attendendum ad ſymptomata jam recenſita. 1o. Immodicus in phreniticis adeſt æſtus ac fervor ſanguinis: præſcribantur venæ ſectiones in pede, brachio, collo viribus ægri proportionatæ; exhibeantur ea quæ maſſam ſanguineam diluant, temperent, & intenſum ipſius æſtum compeſcant.

2o. Fibræ emporii nimis tenſæ, & nimis vibratiles convenientibus remediis laxandæ ſunt. Quapropter attendere debet medicus ad cauſas hanc tenſionem producentes; ſcire oportet utrùm in ventriculo vel in primis viis adſint quæcumque ſordes, cruditates, aut pravi ſucci in vaſis congeſti; ab his enim cerebrum multùm affici, ipſiuſque fibras validè tendi poſſe certâ obſervatione conſtat; hoc autem fit propter nervos inſignes à capite ad ventriculum excurrentes. Inſuper febris Phrenitidis comes inſeparabilis a ſaburra in primis viis exſuperante quandòque producitur; & quoniàm hæc ſaburra in ſanguinis oceanum rapta ſymptomata graviſſima ſæpè parit, ideò ſummo artis molimine eliminanda eſt: hoc autem emetica vel purgantia prudenter exhibita præſtabunt.

3o. Diætam tenuem & refrigerantem præſcribere debet medicus: at ſi Phreniticus adeò furibundus evadat, ut omnia indiſcriminatim reſpuat auxilia, balneo uti non inutile videtur, ut nempè viribus ægri domitis, partes aliquatenùs minùs tenſæ evadant.

4o. Varices, hæmorroides, hæmorragias; alvi fluorem bonum Phreniticis valdè prodeſſe ſæpè obſervatum eſt; his enim duo præſtantur effectus utiliſſimi in Phrenitide. 1o. Imminuitur ſanguinis quantitas undè encephalon aliquatenus liberatur. 2o. Per alvi fluorem bonum tollitur febris causâ materialis; ſaburra, cruditates, ſordes eliminantur. 5o. Denique narcotica Phreniticis aliquando proſunt: ſummâ tamen cum cautelâ ſunt exhibenda, imò ipſis quandòque addendo cardiaca, nè horum medicamentorum virtute Phrenitidi affectus ſoporoſi ſuccedant.

ARGUMENTABUNTUR R. R. D. D. PROFESSORES REGII.

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